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General Assembly

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**Fifty-third session**
Item 120 of the provisional agenda*
**Pattern of conferences**

## Letter dated 19 August 1998 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I am writing in connection with the provisions of section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, according to which no subsidiary organ of the Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by it. Those subsidiary organs that wish to meet during a regular session of the Assembly submit their requests through the Committee on Conferences.

I wish to inform you that the Committee on Conferences has received requests from the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (UNDP/UNFPA), the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Committee on Relations with the Host Country to meet in New York during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly.

The Committee on Conferences, having carefully considered these requests and the reasons for them, does not object, on the strict understanding that such meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services so that the activities of the General Assembly itself are not adversely affected.

Accordingly, I should be grateful if the General Assembly would explicitly authorize the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA and the Committee on Relations with the Host Country to meet in accordance with their requests, subject to the conditions referred to in the foregoing paragraph.

(*Signed*) Koji F. X. **Yamagiwa**
Chairman
Committee on Conferences

* A/53/150.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Items 40 and 85 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 31 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the operation which Israel recently carried out in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

On 26 August 1998 Israel fired flares over the area of 'Ain al-Tinah, inside the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, across from the occupied village of Majdal Shams in the occupied Syrian Golan, setting fire to the areas of Ba'l al-Salikh and Mahjarah, located near the border strip.

The Syrian Arab Republic holds Israel responsible for these acts of provocation, which threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, as well as all other repressive and inhuman practices directed against the Syrian Arab citizens who remain under occupation in the villages of the occupied Syrian Golan and who are thus threatened with environmental destruction, injury and damage to their property, in flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and all the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 40 and 85 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

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98-25515 (E) 010998 010998

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**Fifty-third session**
Item 157 of the provisional agenda*
**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

## Letter dated 29 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding the brutal killing of 22 kidnapped Serbs by terrorists in Klecka (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 157 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanović**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/150

98-25440 (E) 010998

# Annex

## Statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regarding the brutal killing of 22 kidnapped Serbs by terrorists in Klecka

The competent authorities in the Republic of Serbia have confirmed that terrorists have perfidiously and brutally killed 22 kidnapped Serbs in their well-known stronghold of Klecka. In order to cover up the tracks of this crime, they used a lime processing plant as a crematory of sorts, where they burnt the bodies of the murdered civilians. This atrocious crime is documented by incontrovertible evidence and the accounts of two arrested members of the terrorist organization who are directly responsible for the killing of these civilians.

This most serious and brutal of the discovered crimes committed by terrorists thus far has been done following a Nazi recipe. It proves that the killers were brutal and that they not only killed, kidnapped, raped, burned people's homes and destroyed their property and carried out subversive acts, but also went so far, in their crazed Nazi obsession, to commit the cowardly act of burning the bodies of their victims.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has for a long time now been drawing the attention of the international community to the need for a strong and clear condemnation of terrorist gangs in Kosovo and Metohija and for abandoning the policy of double standards, draining all channels and cutting off all forms of assistance to them from abroad.

A tolerant attitude on the part of some countries, which allow in their territory the activities of the outposts, leaders and recruitment centres of the terrorist organizations from Kosovo and Metohija, as well as their financing and training, represents an encouragement to terrorists and the commission of terrorist crimes, and presents the most serious obstacle in the efforts aimed at resuming the dialogue and achieving a peaceful political solution.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, therefore, once again calls on the international community as a whole and on all countries individually to condemn this outrageous crime clearly and most strongly and to support in this context the legitimate struggle against terrorism by applying the same standards as in all other cases. Yugoslavia also urges energetic efforts to nip in the bud all sources of finance, recruitment, training, arming and infiltration of terrorists into Yugoslavia, and it demands that the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army be listed as a terrorist organization.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia makes a clear distinction between its citizens belonging to the Albanian ethnic minority, who are equal to all other persons in every respect, and the insane champions of the idea of a "Greater Albania", who pose the greatest threat to Balkan peace and stability.

Yugoslavia believes that only a joint, firm and equal stance by all countries and international factors regarding all forms and proponents of terrorism can ensure an effective struggle against this universal evil facing mankind today.